



INSPECTOR GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
400 ARMY NAVY DRIVE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-4704

SEP 17 2009

The Honorable Byron Dorgan  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

This is in further response to a letter dated August 11, 2009, signed by you and Senators Evan Bayh, Robert Byrd, John D. Rockefeller IV, Ron Wyden, Jeff Merkley, and Sheldon Whitehouse, requesting "a formal investigation into the exposure of U.S. soldiers to sodium dichromate, a potentially deadly carcinogen, at the Qarmat Ali water injection facility in Iraq in 2003.

The Deputy Inspector General for Policy and Oversight announced "Review of Army Response to Sodium Dichromate at Qarmat Ali Iraq" to address the concern expressed in your letter. A copy of the announcement memorandum is enclosed for your information. We will provide you the results of the review when it is completed.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (703) 604-8324.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Crane", is written over the typed name.

John R. Crane  
Assistant Inspector General  
Communications and Congressional Liaison

Enclosure: as stated



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SEP 11 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR  
ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: Review of Army Response to Sodium Dichromate Exposure at Qarmat Ali Iraq  
(Project D2009-DIPOE3-0306.000)

The Inspector General of the Department of Defense will review the U.S. Army's actions regarding the exposure of personnel to sodium dichromate at the Qarmat Ali water injection facility in 2003. We are conducting this review in response to a request from seven members of the United States Senate questioning efforts of the U.S. Army and contractors to protect the safety and health of Government and contractor personnel at this site.

We will start the project in September 2009. The team will contact the U.S. Army, U.S. Central Command, the Defense Contract Management Agency, and other DoD organizations as required. We will also coordinate with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Please inform the appropriate entities within your agency or command of this assessment and advise them that the team will request meetings and access to records. All members of the team will have appropriate security clearances.

To facilitate the coordination process for this assessment, please provide your points of contact by October 1, 2009, to Lt Col Lee Nelson at (703) 604-9192, DSN 664-9192, lee.nelson@dodig.mil.

Charles W. Beardall  
Deputy Inspector General  
for Policy and Oversight

cc:

Inspector General of the Army  
Naval Inspector General  
Inspector General of the Air Force  
Inspector General of the Marine Corps  
Office of the Inspector General of the Joint Staff  
Inspector General of the United States Central Command  
Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs